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HOW OUR 4-H CLUB IS SERVING THE COMMUNITY

National 4-H Radio Program.
December 3, 1938, Chicago, Illinois
Bonnie Phillips, Belva, Oklahoma
Winner National Leadership Trophy.

The community in which I have always lived is located in a semi-arid valley between ranges of flat topped hills. Our consolidated school is the meeting place of our 4-H Club, and a large sign with a painted valley scene and large lettered words mark it as "The Home of Our Cheyenne Valley 4-H Club of Major County".

My home is on a 4,500 acre ranch. This is somewhat larger than most of the nearby farms, but almost all of them are larger than the customary 160 acre farm since crop yield per acre is not great. Wheat is by far the best crop for this section. Feed crops and livestock are also raised on a rather extensive scale.

For a number of years our 4-H Club has had an average membership of 30. These members are carrying the usual 4-H projects as outlined by the 4-H Club Staff at our State College of Agriculture.

May I now mention some of the ways in which our Club is serving our community through the better farm and home-making practices which our Club Members are following.

It is very difficult to raise good gardens in our community because of drouths. Through our 4-H work, we have learned to use drouth resistant varieties, to prepare seed beds more carefully and to use insect control measures.

The best known methods of canning learned at Club meetings have been taken into our homes, put to use, and demonstrated to our neighbors.

Then too, better methods of cookery and well balanced meals have been emphasized. 4-H girls have taken good meal planning principles into not only their own homes, but to many other homes of the community. Our 4-H girls make excellent helpers for the busy farm women of the community during the difficult times of cooking for harvest hands.

Oh, yes, I must tell you of one interesting thing which our 4-H Club did. We sponsored a dinner for members of the Rotary Club of Fairview, our county seat. The purpose of this dinner was to promote better fellowship between the two communities. You can guess what fun we had doing that stunt.

Our 4-H Health activities have not only bettered the health of our Club members, but have contributed much to the Health Education of our community. Through 4-H Health clinics, it has been possible to locate health defects in Club members that could and have been remedied.

Being a girl, it is not necessary for me to tell you that all of us admire pretty cloths but with the low income which we have had from our farms, in the past few years, to be appropriately dressed has been quite a problem.

Many good practices in clothing construction and in better buying have been adopted by both Mothers and girls, because of the good 4-H clothing work done by our Club members. County and State dress revues for both girls and boys have been valuable in demonstrating, not only good clothing, construction, but also the value of good grooming and correct posture.

We are told that the standard bred poultry in our community has come about largely through 4-H Club work. Poultry judging schools and shows conducted by extension specialists and County Extension Agents have helped all of us. Much attention has been paid to turkey raising, which has become a very profitable industry in Major County. Fairview is one of Oklahoma's biggest shipping points for dressed turkeys.

4-H livestock now graze in the pastures where the cow-boy rode the range only a few short years ago. 4-H Club members own pure bred cattle, hogs, and sheep and they are demonstrating the value of improved methods of care and feeding. The dairy cow is also seen more frequently than in former years.

After all, the greatest contribution which the 4-H Club is making to our community, is the development of the boys and girls. In school, Church, farm organization and all community affairs, our 4-H Club members are cooperating, following, leading and serving wherever there is need - better trained and with a better attitude because of 4-H Club work.

